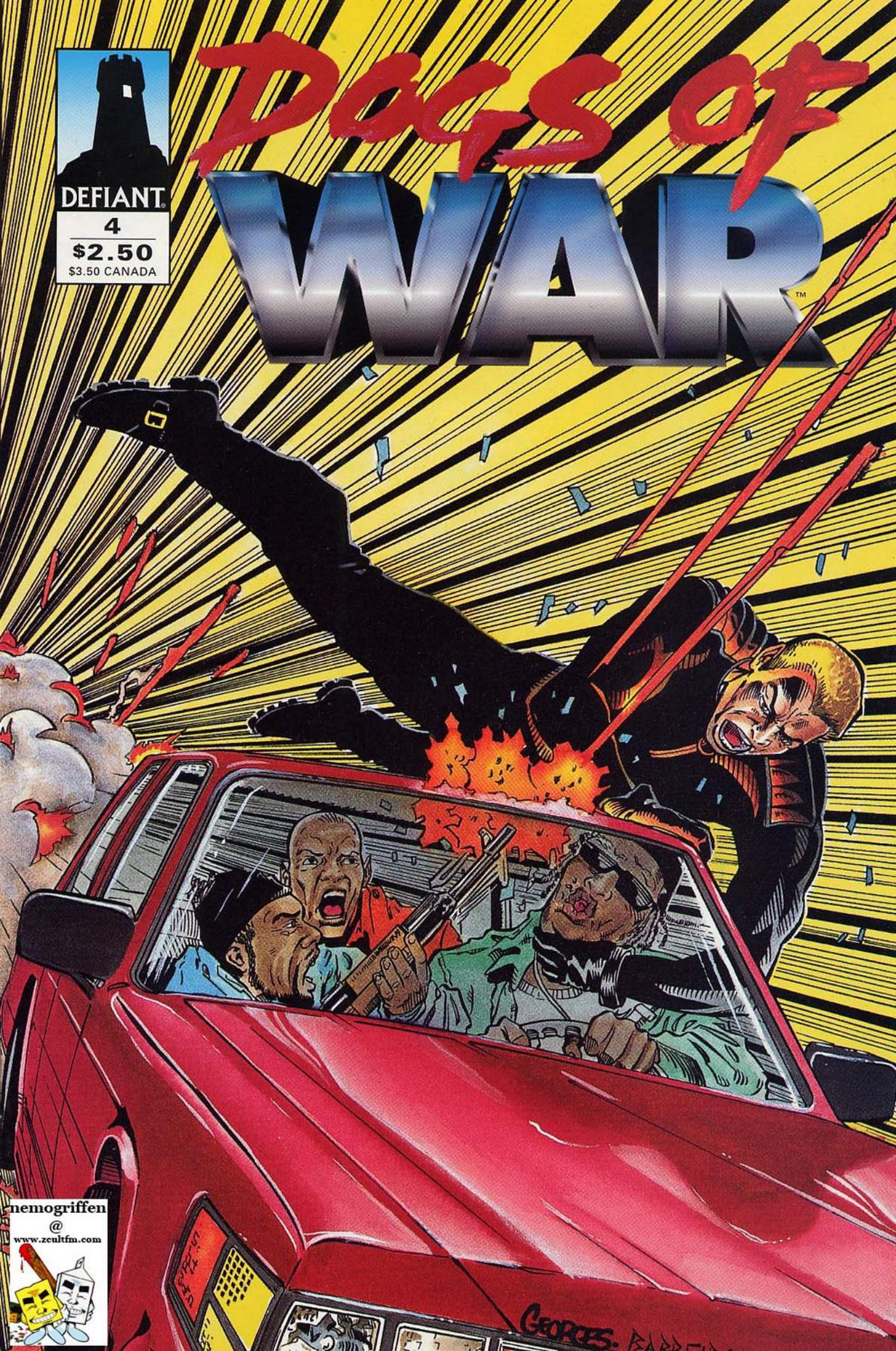
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SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES. 11:38 PM.

THE DARK RIDE: FIFTH TURN, SECOND DROP...
...IT'S JUST THAT I'M WORRIED, CARL. YOU KNOW WHAT THIS PLACE IS LIKE AT NIGHT.
NO PROBLEM, BABY. THIS NEIGHBORHOOD'S MY HOME. I'LL BE CAREFUL.

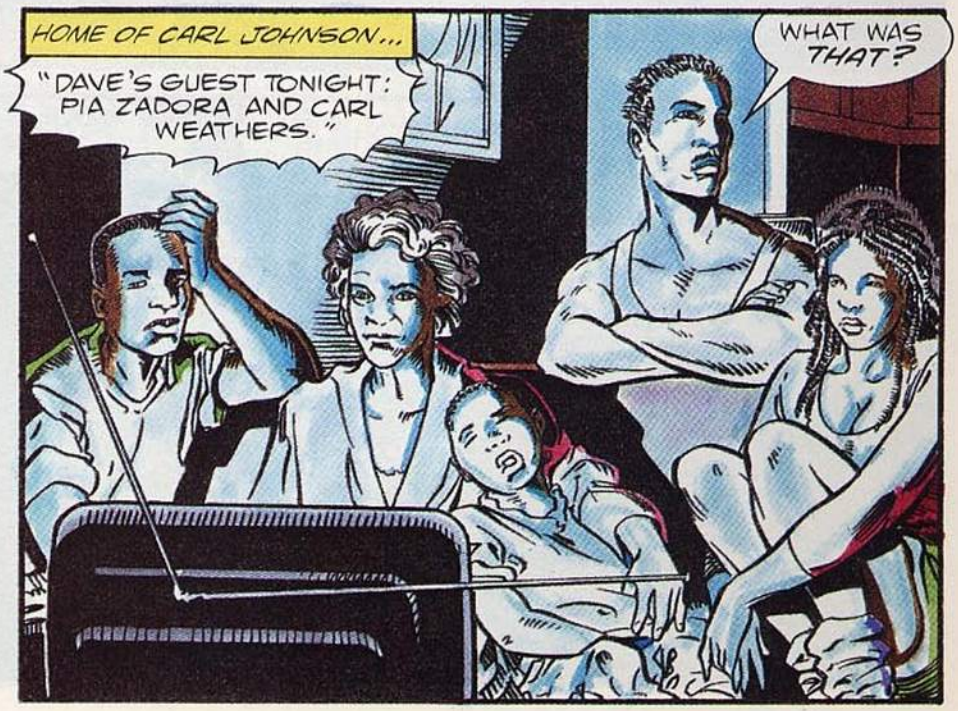
JUST WATCH OUT... OK?
NO SWEAT, BABY. CALL YA WHEN I GET THERE.

MAN, DON'T LOVE MAKE YOU JUST OWN THE STREETS.
C'MON, BOYS!

JUST DOWN THE STREET...
HEY, MAN... GIVE UP WITH THAT BOTTLE BEFORE I POP YOU.
SHUT UP.

YO, YO, MAN... LOOK AT THAT!
CUZ OUT LATE AND ON THE WRONG STREET. AIN'T HE GOIN WITH THAT FINE CARA?
UH HUH.

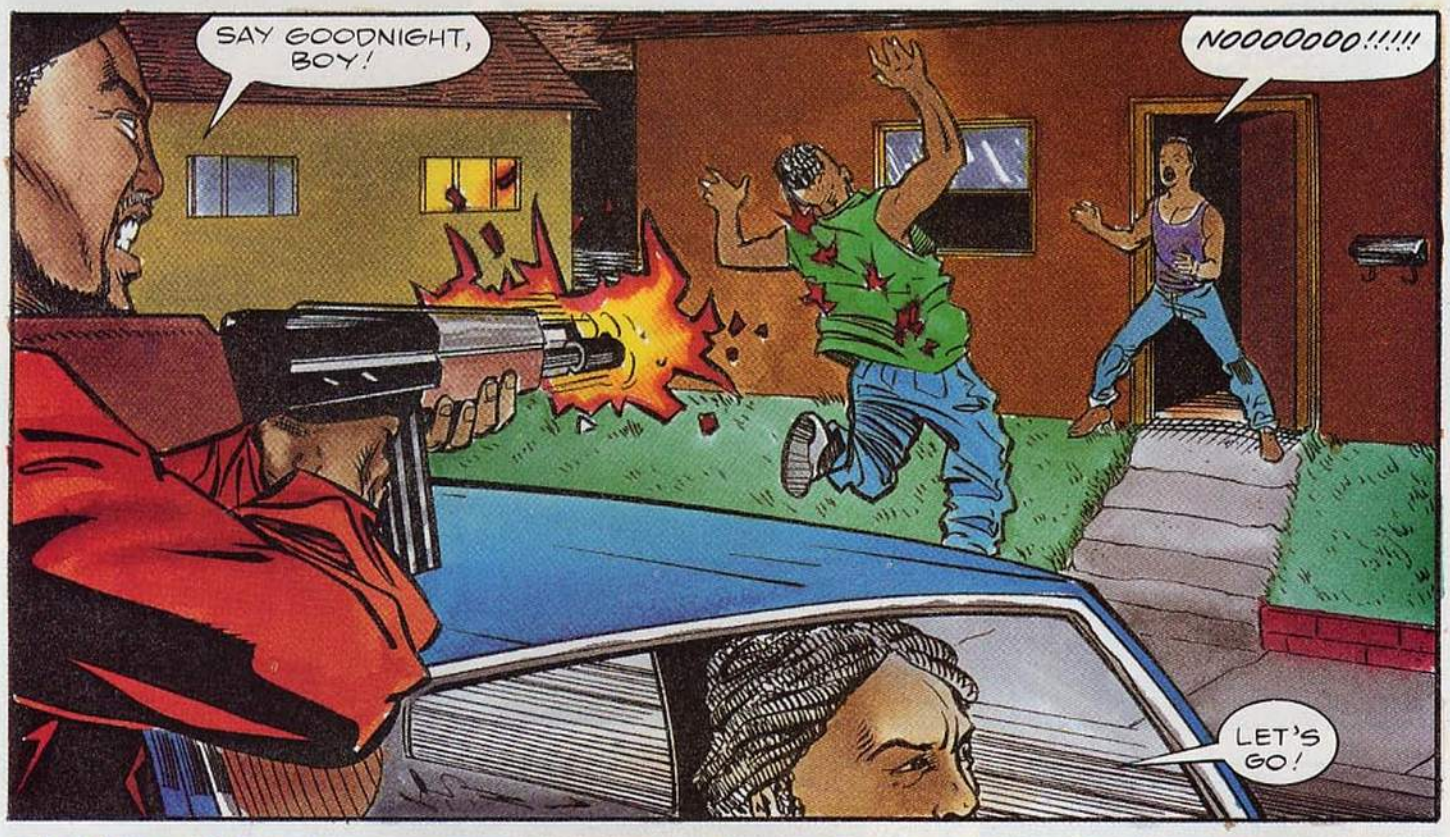
NOT NO MORE!!
SCREECH!

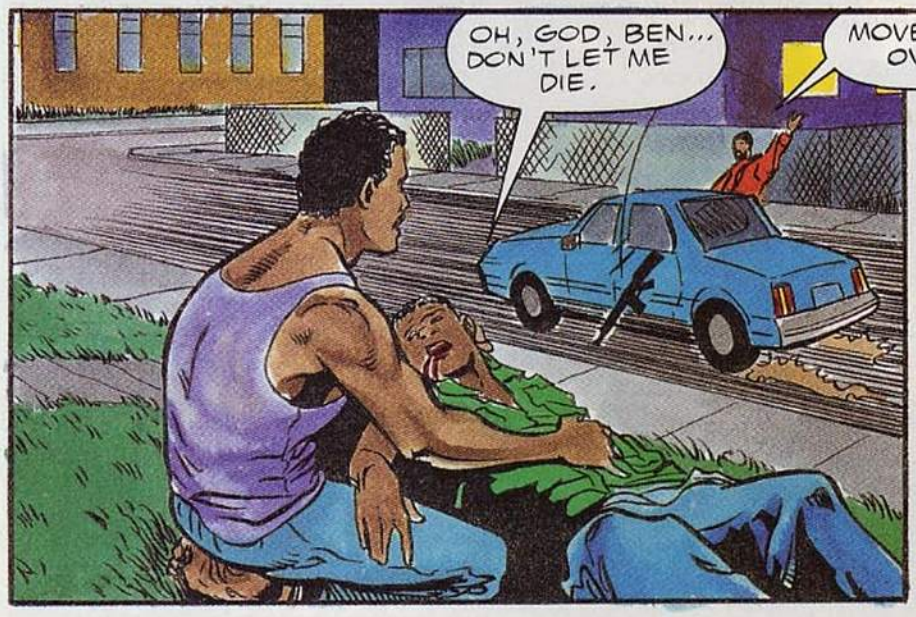

HOME OF CARL JOHNSON...
"DAVE'S GUEST TONIGHT: PIA ZADORA AND CARL WEATHERS."
WHAT WAS THAT?

OH, GOD...

CARL!!!!!

OHMYGOD... OHMYGOD... OHMYGOD...


SAY GOODNIGHT, BOY!
NOOOOOOO!!!!!
LET'S GO!


OH, GOD, BEN... DON'T LET ME DIE.
MOVE IT... SHOW'S OVER NOW.

FIELD PROMOTION

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...MY NAME IS SHOOTER, AND I HAVE DECIDED TO TELL THE WORLD TODAY THAT PROVIDENCE HAS GRANTED ME SPECIAL POWERS AND I HAVE DECIDED TO USE THEM TO FIGHT EVIL...

WAIT... WHO ARE YOU??
CONTROL ROOM, PLEASE TELL ME WE'RE GETTING THIS ON TAPE...

DO YOU TRUST ME, SISTER?
UH... WELL...

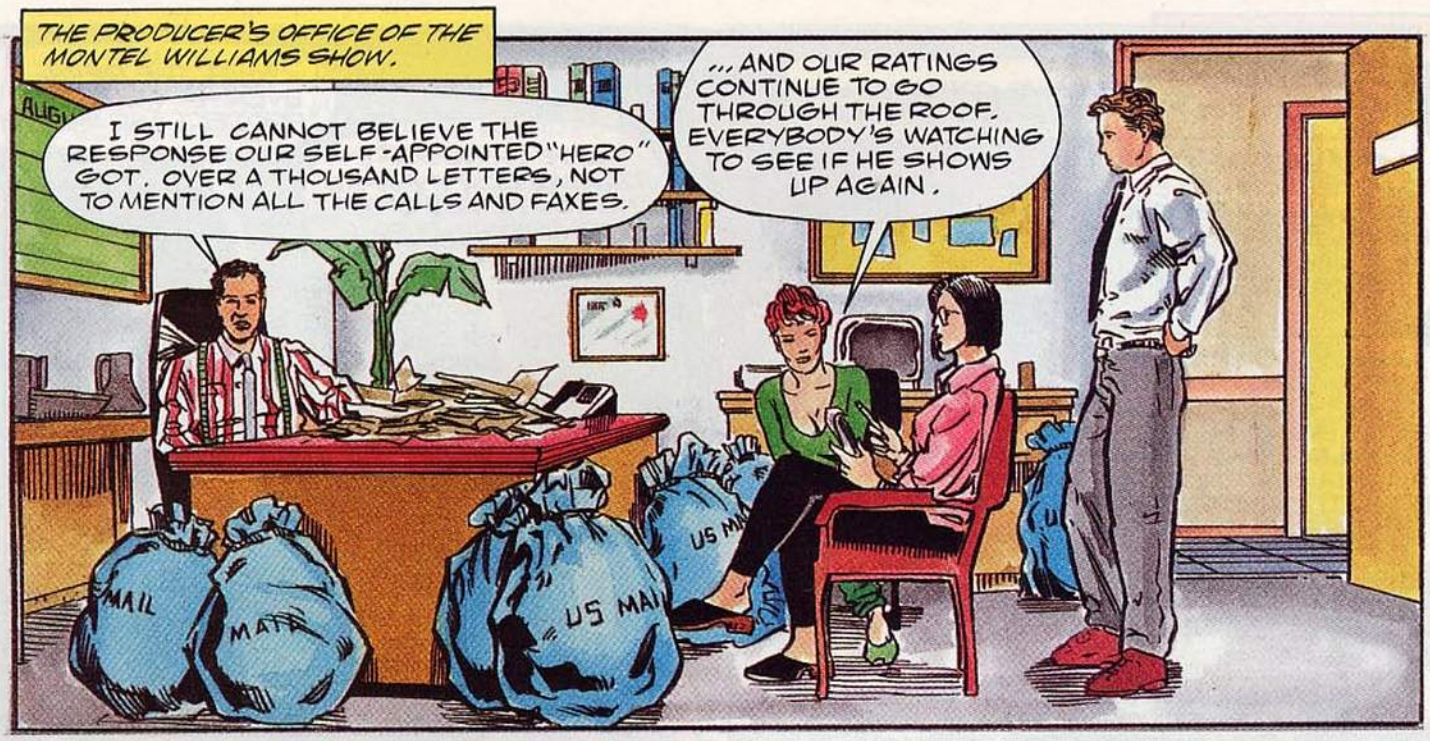
OHDEARLORD.
...MOTHER OF GOD, MARY, HOLD ON...

NOW HOLD ON TIGHT.
AYYYYY!!!

IF THERE IS ANYONE OUT THERE WHO NEEDS SOMEONE TO BE ON THEIR SIDE, WHO NEEDS A HERO WHEN ALL ELSE HAS FAILED...
...THEN WRITE, CALL OR FAX THIS PROGRAM EXPLAINING THE PROBLEM.

MONTEL WILL MAKE SURE I GET THE MESSAGES.
NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
HE IS THE ONLY ONE YOU AND I CAN TRUST TO GET YOUR URGENT MESSAGE TO ME.
UH... THAT'S RIGHT... SEND ALL INQUIRES TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

ONE WEEK LATER...
THE MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMUNITY CENTER, SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES.
LAPD HAS IDENTIFIED THIS AS A CHINESE-MADE AK-47 ASSAULT RIFLE, SIMILAR TO THE ONE USED TO KILL YOUNG CARL JOHNSON.
SADLY, WE BELIEVE THOUSANDS OF THESE CHEAP WEAPONS HAVE BEEN SOLD IN LOS ANGELES. ONE, IN FACT, WAS TAKEN FROM AN EIGHTH GRADER'S LOCKER JUST THIS WEEK.
THESE THINGS ARE KILLING OUR PEOPLE AND YOU POLICE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP IT?
WHAT THE DEVIL EVER HAPPENED TO "PROTECT AND SERVE"?
LISTEN TO ME! THIS GUN COSTS LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS ON THE STREET, WHICH MEANS ANYONE CAN BUY ONE. THERE ARE THOUSANDS OUT THERE. IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME TO GET THEM ALL OFF THE STREETS.
I BET THAT WEIRD GUY ON MONTEL COULD GET RID OF THEM IN NO TIME!
WE BELIEVE THAT GUY WAS JUST SOME SORT OF NUT-CASE, AND SO SHOULD YOU...
THANKS FOR COMING BY, LIEUTENANT GREY. THE REST OF THE MEETING IS JUST COMMUNITY BUSINESS.
WE HAVE ANOTHER SPEAKER TODAY. SOMEONE MANY OF YOU ASKED ME TO INVITE...
HE ASKS TO BE KNOWN AS "GROWLER" AND THIS IS HIS SON, "PUP."
BEN TOLD ME THAT MANY OF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING BACK YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FROM THE GANGS.
I'M HERE TO TEACH YOU HOW, BUT NO WAY IS IT GOING TO BE EASY.


THE PRODUCER'S OFFICE OF THE MONTEL WILLIAMS SHOW.
I STILL CANNOT BELIEVE THE RESPONSE OUR SELF-APPOINTED "HERO" GOT. OVER A THOUSAND LETTERS, NOT TO MENTION ALL THE CALLS AND FAXES.
...AND OUR RATINGS CONTINUE TO GO THROUGH THE ROOF. EVERYBODY'S WATCHING TO SEE IF HE SHOWS UP AGAIN.
MAIL
US MAIL

WE GOTTA GET THIS GUY BACK. ANY IDEAS?

NO SWEAT. WE JUST WAIT UNTIL HE COMES BACK FOR THE MAIL. THEN WE SCHMOOZE A LITTLE, PLAY TO HIS EGO...
...AND THEN WE "WOW" HIM WITH SOME KIND OF DEAL.

YOU KNOW THIS GUYS GOT TO BE A PUBLICITY HOUND!

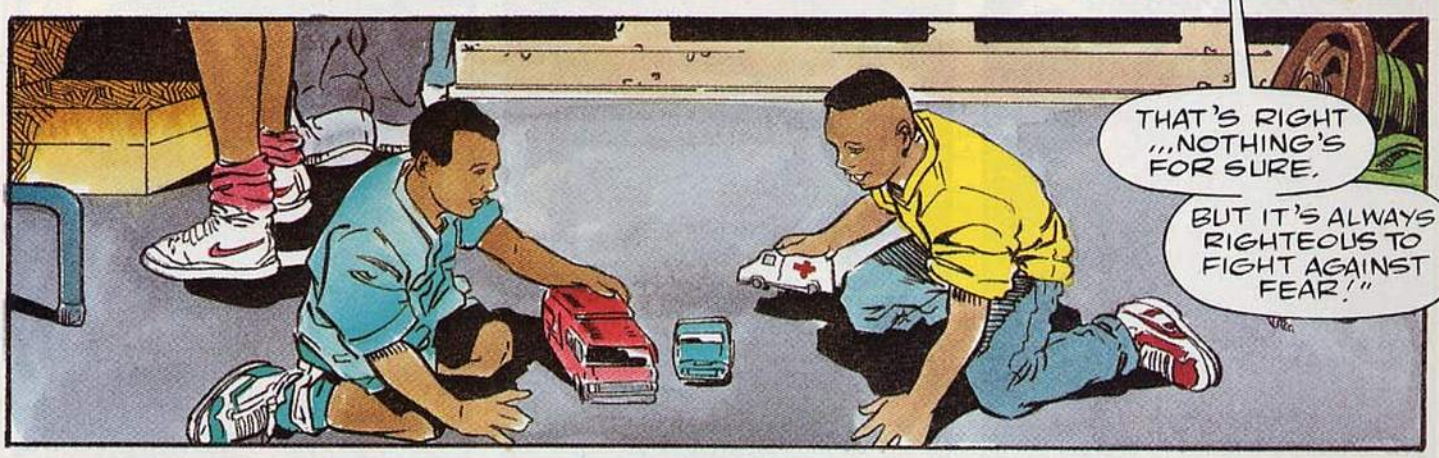
SHOOTER'S APARTMENT...
"PLEASE HELP ME FIND MY LOST DOG." "I THINK MY WIFE'S CHEATING ON ME..." "I THINK I SAW ALIENS IN THE NEW JERSEY SWAMPS..."
YEAH, LIKE WHO'D BELIEVE THAT?
WAIT A MINUTE... HERE'S ONE..."DEAR MISTER SHOOTER, I RECENTLY LOST MY SON IN A DRIVE-BY SHOOTING IN LOS ANGELES..."

"MY OTHER SON, BEN, BELIEVES WE CAN FIGHT THEM OURSELVES, BUT I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIM TOO. CAN YOU HELP US? SIGNED, MARY JOHNSON.
BINGO!

LATER, IN MARY JOHNSON'S GARAGE...
NOW, LET'S START WITH LEARNING HOW TO HANDLE THIS WEAPON.
WON'T US CARRYING GUNS JUST ESCALATE THE WHOLE MESS?

JANINE, YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A BATTLE FOR YOUR HOME...

TERRITORY CAN ONLY BE PROTECTED BY THE PEOPLE IT'S MOST PRECIOUS TO. WITH THE COPS, A NEIGHBORHOOD CAN ALMOST ALWAYS BEAT THE GANGS.
YOU SAID "ALMOST ALWAYS".


THAT'S RIGHT ...NOTHING'S FOR SURE.
BUT IT'S ALWAYS RIGHTEOUS TO FIGHT AGAINST FEAR!"

OVER THE NEXT WEEK...
THEY FIGHT BACK...

...AND THEIR FEARS

...BEGIN TO FADE.

TAXI
LET'S GO, MAN... YOU WANT TO DEAL OR WHAT?

TAKE OFF... I THINK THE "NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH" IS WAITING FOR US.

LET'S SHOW THESE "CITIZENS" WHAT A JOKE THEY REALLY ARE!

STOP THE CAR... NOW!!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
GO GET BEN AND GROWLER QUICK!

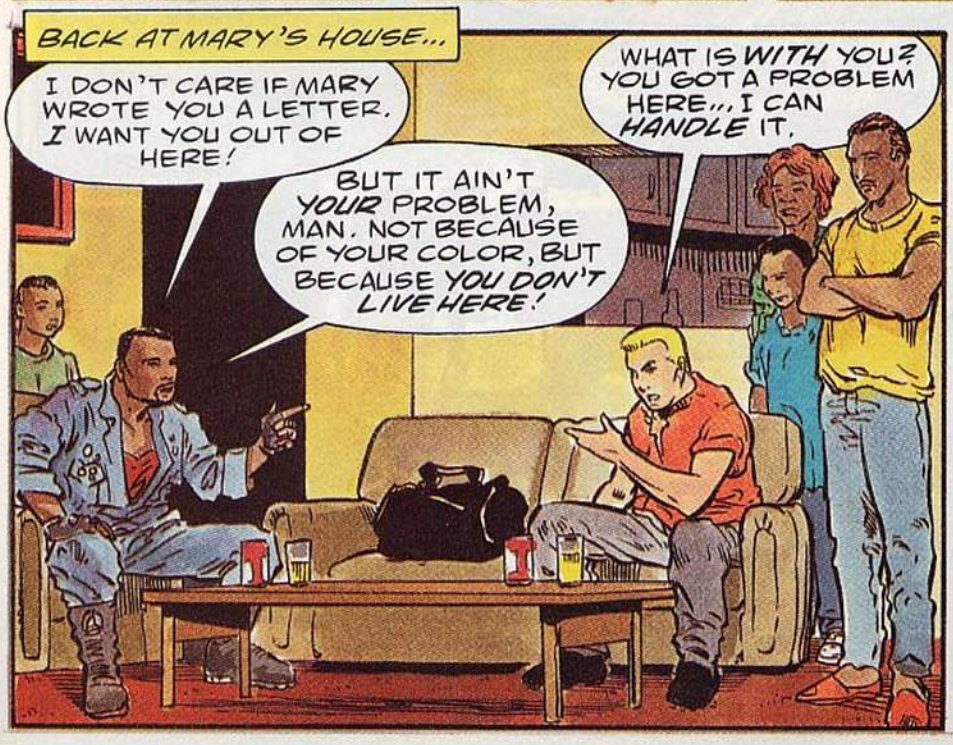
LET'S GO PUNKS... EVERYBODY OUT OF THE POOL.

PUT THE GUN DOWN, PAL, AND STEP AWAY.
NOT BLOODY LIKELY. NOW WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU?

I'M THE GUY WHO'S GOING TO HURT YOU BAD IF YOU DON'T DROP IT NOW!
THAT'S RIGHT, I FORGOT... "ALL BLACKS LOOK ALIKE, ALL BLACKS ARE GANGSTERS."

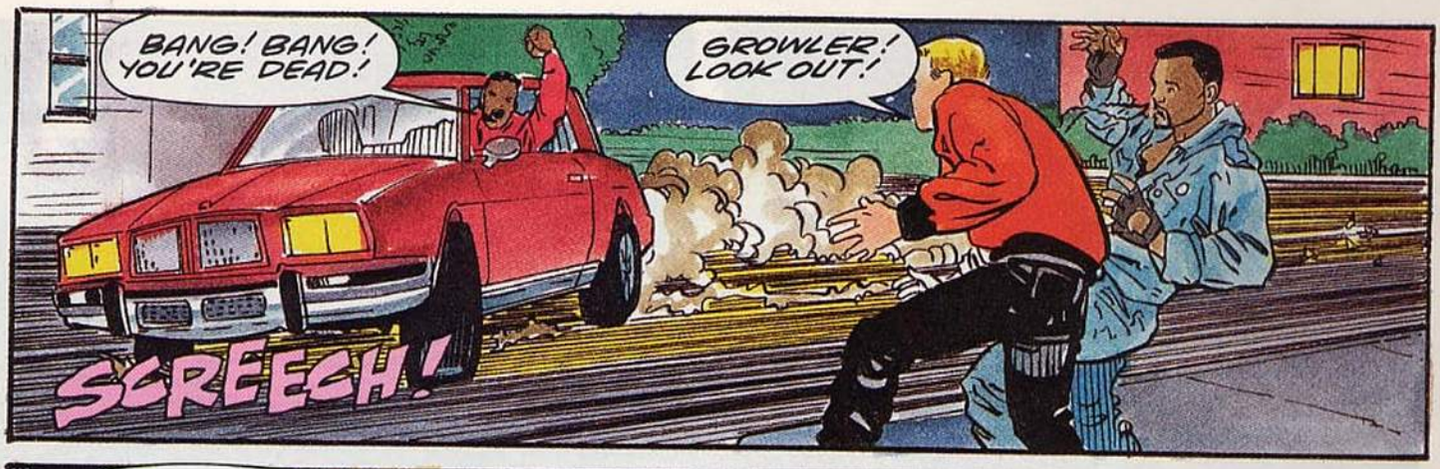
FOR ALL I KNOW, SISTER, YOU MIGHT BE WITH THEM!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I SAID. I SAID THAT...

GREAT! THEY TOOK OFF WHILE I WAS EDUCATING YOU.
I KNOW THEM. THEY'LL BE BACK. LET'S TAKE THIS OFF THE STREET.


BACK AT MARY'S HOUSE...
I DON'T CARE IF MARY WROTE YOU A LETTER. I WANT YOU OUT OF HERE!
BUT IT AIN'T YOUR PROBLEM, MAN. NOT BECAUSE OF YOUR COLOR, BUT BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIVE HERE!
WHAT IS WITH YOU? YOU GOT A PROBLEM HERE... I CAN HANDLE IT.

EVERY PERSON MUST STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR THEMSELVES AND THE PEOPLE THEY LOVE. YOU MIGHT BEAT THE BADDIES DOWN TODAY... BUT WITHOUT VIGILANCE, IT'S JUST TEMPORARY.

AT A SQUAT NEARBY...
FORGET YOU, MAN... WE CANNOT TOLERATE LOSING TERRITORY.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
THEY'RE ARMED NOW, MACON. THEY GOT THAT VIET VET GROWLER TO HELP THEM. AND NOW THERE'S THAT NEW WEIRD WHITE FOOL.
THEY DIDN'T ASK US TO LEAVE... INSTEAD THEY ATTACKED. IN A SHORT TIME, THEY'LL NO LONGER RESPECT OR FEAR US.
YO, BLAST...
YOU GET YOURSELF FIRED FROM THAT CONSTRUCTION JOB YET?
NO. I LOVE BLOWING THINGS UP TOO MUCH TO LET THAT HAPPEN.
I MAY JUST HAVE SOMETHING A BIT MORE ANIMATED FOR YOU TO DESTROY TONIGHT.
LATER, ON A PERIMETER WATCH AROUND THE BLOCK...
THIS IS POINTLESS, GRINDER. YOU'RE NOT EVEN ARMED...
WHAT YOU GOING TO DO WHEN THEY COME BACK?
I'M HERE TO HELP THESE PEOPLE STAND UP TO FEAR, AND HERE TO FEED YOUR HUGE EGO.
DON'T YOU EVER THINK THAT YOU KNOW ME!
THE NAME'S GROWLER, AND WHY SHOULD I WORRY? I GOT THE GREAT SHOOTER BY MY SIDE... STAR OF NEW YORK TALK SHOWS.
THE FACT IS... WE JUST WANT DIFFERENT THINGS FOR THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.
OPEN
7 DAYS

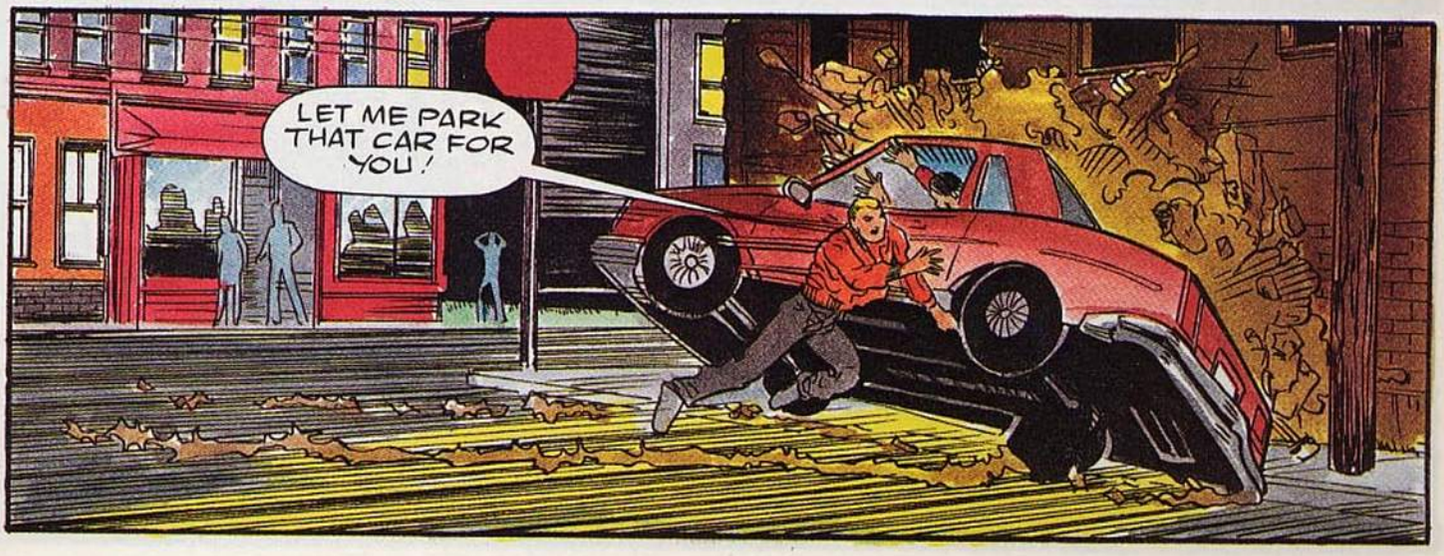

BANG! BANG! YOU'RE DEAD!
GROWLER! LOOK OUT!
SCREECH!

NO, SHOOTER! WAIT!

HE COULD HAVE KILLED US BOTH... BUT HE DIDN'T?
MUST BE A DIVERSION... GOT TO GET BACK TO THE HOUSE.

EXCUSE ME SIR...

I'M THE VALET HERE...


LET ME PARK THAT CAR FOR YOU!

OUTSIDE MARY JOHNSON'S HOUSE...

THERE... NEAR THE GAS MAIN SO THE COPS CAN'T PROVE NOTHIN'!

AUGGHH!
YOU GOT TO WORRY ABOUT ME!
FORGET THE COPS...

WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

WANNA GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS?

NOPE... JUST LIKE YOU KEEP TELLING ME-- IT'S NOT MY FIGHT!

NONE OF THIS IS YOUR FIGHT!!! NOBODY WANTS YOU HERE. IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP...

... FIND OUT WHERE THESE GUNS ARE COMING FROM AND STOP THEM!!!
THAT'S ABOUT THE BEST IDEA YOU'VE EVER HAD, GROVER.
C'MON, SKIPPY... I'M SURE YOU'VE GOT LOTS OF THINGS YOU'RE JUST DYING TO TELL ME!

A WAREHOUSE NEAR SAN PEDRO HARBOR...
THE NEXT EVENING...
IF SKIPPY WAS LYING ABOUT THIS PLACE, I'LL BUST UP THE OTHER HALF OF HIS HEAD AS WELL.

WHAT HAPPENED TO BEAUTIFUL, WARM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA?

ALRIGHT... THINGS SHOULD BE WARMING UP SHORTLY.

2
MOVE IT... GET INSIDE!
WELL... IF YOU INSIST!

IT'S ALL HERE... THE AKS, GRENADES, ALL THE C-4 YOU COULD EVER WANT!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE STORE IS ABOUT TO CLOSE...

WHAT THE...
THIS SIDE UP
PLEASE TAKE YOUR FINAL PURCHASES TO THE CHECK-OUT COUNTER AT THIS TIME...

...AND THANKS FOR SHOPPING THUGS "R" US!
GRENADE!!!

GEE, THAT WAS FUN... ALTHOUGH YOU LOOK A LITTLE MOTION SICK.

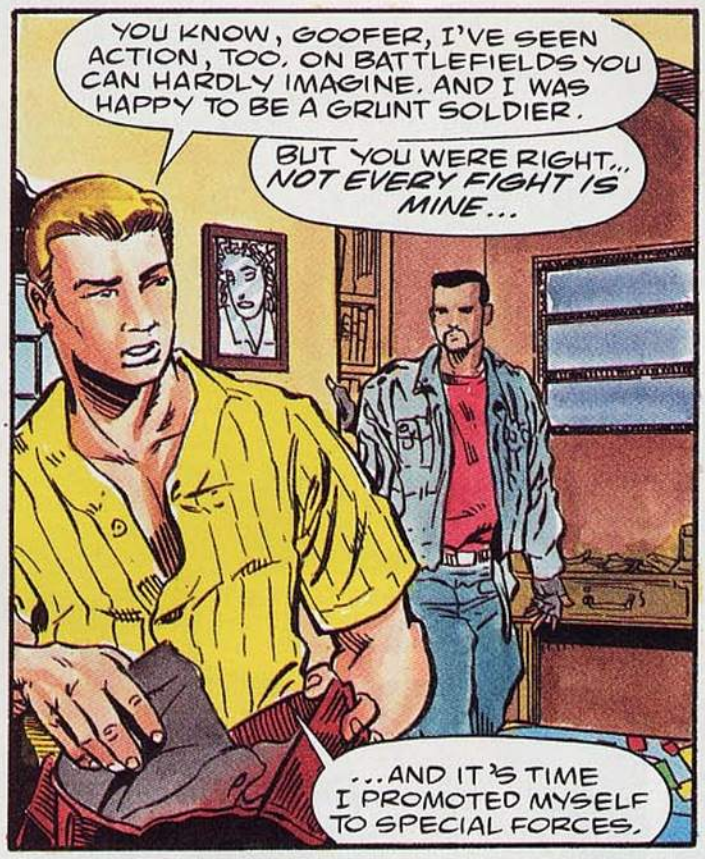
THIS IS THE POINT IN THE STORY WHERE THE BAD GUY TELLS THE GOOD GUY WHERE HE GOT THOSE CHINESE GUNS FROM!
GET OFF MY LEG, MAN... I THINK IT'S BROKEN!

I DON'T GIVE A RAT'S BUTT ABOUT YOUR LEG. TELL ME ABOUT THOSE GUNS RIGHT NOW...

...OR INSTEAD OF GOING OFF TO A NICE PRISON HOSPITAL TO RECUPERATE...

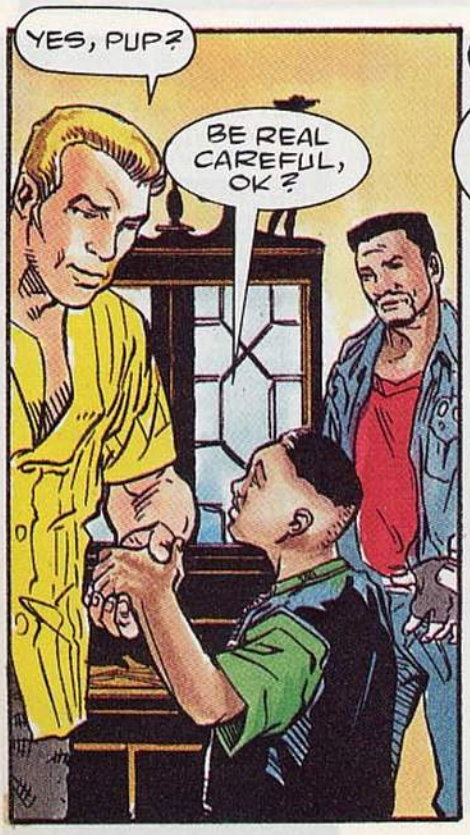
YOU GET TO HANG OUT WITH ME SOME MORE!

THE NEXT MORNING AT MARY JOHNSON'S HOUSE...
I SEE YOU FINALLY GOT THE HINT!


YOU KNOW, GOOFER, I'VE SEEN ACTION, TOO, ON BATTLEFIELDS YOU CAN HARDLY IMAGINE. AND I WAS HAPPY TO BE A GRUNT SOLDIER.
BUT YOU WERE RIGHT... NOT EVERY FIGHT IS MINE...
...AND IT'S TIME I PROMOTED MYSELF TO SPECIAL FORCES.

NICE SPEECH BUT, IF YOU GOOF WITH MY NAME AGAIN, I'LL BURY YOU!

JACKING SOMEONE JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN JUST MAKES YOU A BULLY, SHOOTER.
REAL COURAGE ISN'T ABOUT NOT BEING AFRAID... IT'S ABOUT DOING SOMETHING EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE AFRAID.
I'D RATHER STAND WITH THESE PEOPLE AND LOSE, THAN WIN WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU... SOMEONE WHO FIGHTS 'CAUSE THAT'S ALL HE CAN DO.
NOW GET OUT!
MISTER SHOOTER?


YES, PUP?
BE REAL CAREFUL, OK?

I WILL. AND THANKS.
HOW ABOUT A HAND WITH THAT TRUNK... GROWLER.

MAN, WHAT YOU GOT IN HERE... A DEAD BODY?

SAN PEDRO BAY, SOUTH OF LOS ANGELES...
WHAT A MAGNIFICENT VIEW!
I JUST GOT TO SHARE THIS WITH SOMEBODY...
LAST STOP... EVERYBODY OUT!
MAN, YOU BETTER LET ME GO... I GOT FRIENDS. I'M CONNECTED.
YOU GOT NOTHIN'. NOW SHOW ME WHICH SHIP HAS THE GUNS ON IT.
THE "SECRET WIND" OUT OF HONG KONG.
THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW.
I'M AFRAID, MR. SCUMBAG, THAT YOU HAVE JUST OUTLIVED YOUR USEFULNESS.
PLEASE. I... I KNOW THE CAPTAIN AND ... I SPEAK MANDARIN. I CAN HELP YOU.
HM... OK...
HOLD ON TIGHT. AS A COMEDIAN ONCE SAID...
"I SAW THIS IN A CARTOON ONCE... BUT I'M PRETTY SURE I CAN DO IT!"

LATER...
NO... PLEASE... I BEG YOU...
RELAX...

GOING UP'S MORE FUN ANY-WAY!

...DON'T MOVE...

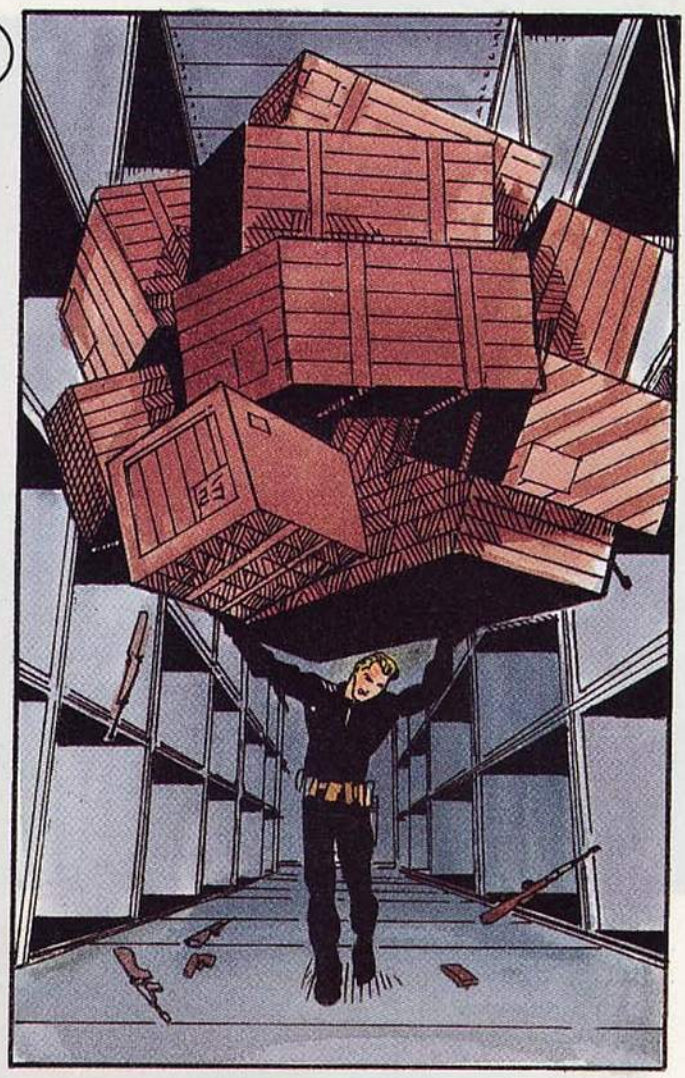
HOW BIG IS THE SHIPMENT?
IT'S ABOUT HALF OF WHAT WE USUALLY GET... BUT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I'M GOING TO RECONNOITER A BIT AND COME RIGHT BACK. NOW DON'T MOVE!
YOU'D NEVER SURVIVE THE SWIM BACK, AND YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN WHAT I CAN DO.
I'M YOUR ONLY CHANCE FROM NOW ON!

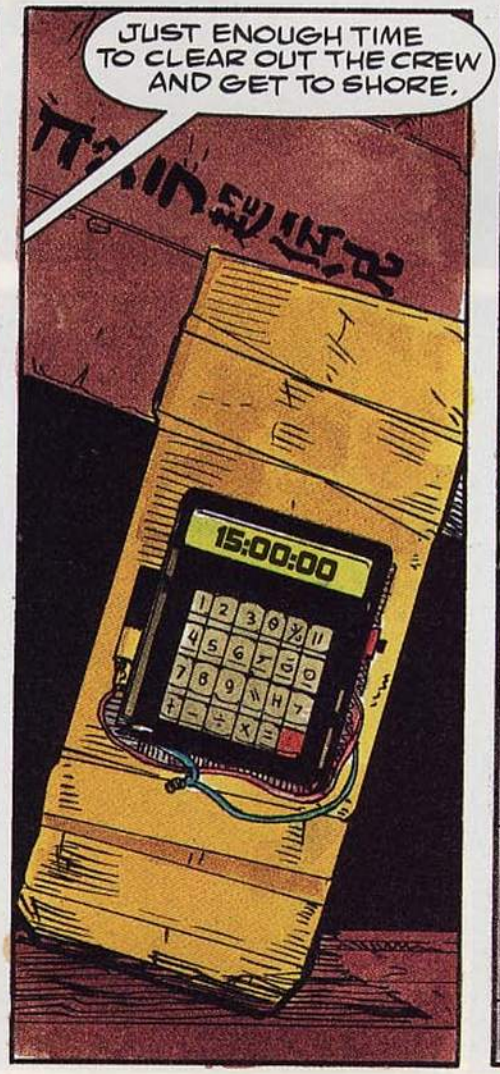
...DEAR GOD...

THIS IS ONLY HALF A SHIPMENT?!

COME ON, SHOOTER... LET'S GET GOING.



FIFTEEN MINUTES OUGHT TO DO IT.


JUST ENOUGH TIME TO CLEAR OUT THE CREW AND GET TO SHORE.
15:00:00

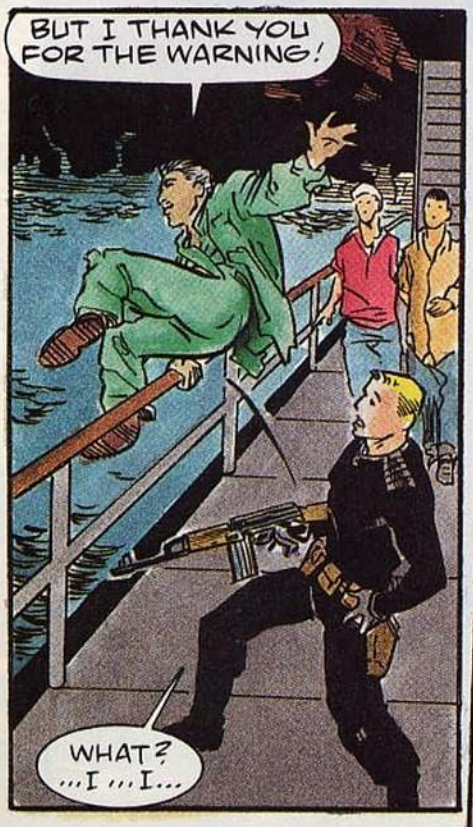
I WAS... I WAS JUST STRETCHING MY LEGS.
YEAH, RIGHT... C'MON, IT'S TIME TO GO!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

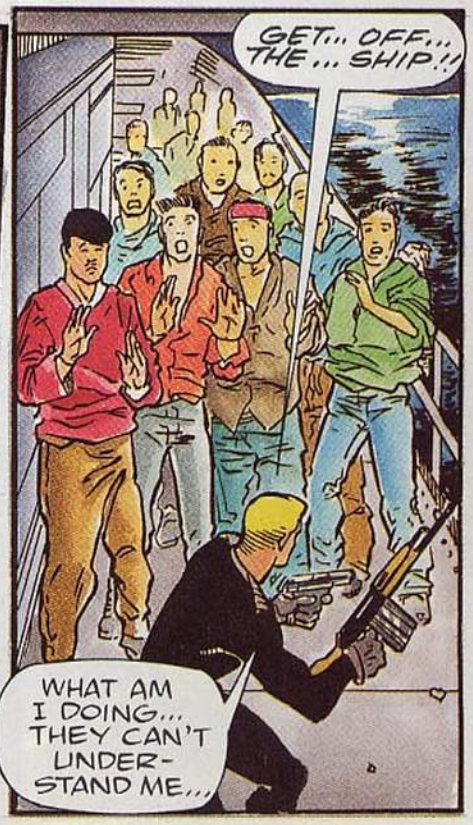
WE GOT ABOUT EIGHT MINUTES LEFT.

TELL THE CREW THERE'S A BOMB SET TO GO OFF. TELL THEM TO GET OFF THE SHIP NOW!

WELL, THE THING ABOUT THAT IS...
YOU WERE GOING TO SHOOT ME. I HAD TO SAY SOMETHING.
I CAN'T SPEAK A WORD OF CHINESE!


BUT I THANK YOU FOR THE WARNING!
WHAT? ...I ...I...

I'LL BLAST YOU RIGHT INTO THE NEXT WORLD!!

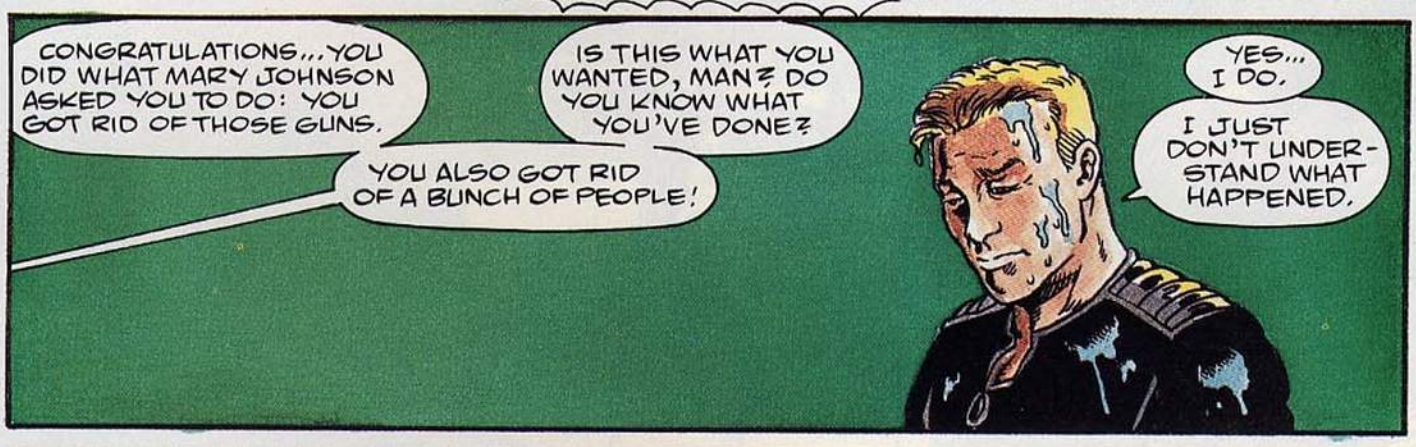

GET... OFF... THE ... SHIP!!
WHAT AM I DOING... THEY CAN'T UNDER-STAND ME...

I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOUR LIVES!
THIS IS THE COAST GUARD. STEP AWAY FROM THE WEAPONS. AND PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR NOW!
THIS IS JUST GREAT...
GET AWAY... GET AWAY!
THE SHIP'S GOING TO EXPLODE!!
NO TIME... NO MORE TIME!
00:00:48

LOCAL AND NETWORK TV, LESS THAN TWENTY MINUTES LATER...
"FOR THOSE OF YOU JUST JOINING US, A CHINESE TANKER HAS EXPLODED IN SAN PEDRO HARBOR, TAKING WITH IT A COAST GUARD HELICOPTER..."
"INITIAL REPORTS FROM THE SCENE SHOW AT LEAST 35 BODIES IN THE WATER..."

"THE EFFECT ON SHIPPING, COMMERCE, AS WELL AS ON THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, WILL BE STAGGERING..."
"AUTHORITIES ON THE SCENE ARE INVESTIGATING FOR POSSIBLE SABOTAGE."

PUP HERE INSISTED THAT WE FOLLOW YOU. BECAUSE HE WAS WORRIED, YOU UNDER-STAND?
YEAH...


CONGRATULATIONS... YOU DID WHAT MARY JOHNSON ASKED YOU TO DO: YOU GOT RID OF THOSE GUNS.
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED, MAN? DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE?
YOU ALSO GOT RID OF A BUNCH OF PEOPLE!
YES... I DO.
I JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT HAPPENED.

DON'T LOOK DOWN THERE... AIN'T NO ANSWERS FOR YOU DOWN THERE.

C'MON... IT'S TIME TO GO...

NEXT MONTH: A HUNTER'S MOON!